



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 1, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque

FROM: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT DATED
JANUARY 14, 1994

The enclosed report addresses a part of the results of the January 13-14, 1994 meeting of the Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC). It presents the report of the November 29-30, 1993 meeting of the NSRRC Subcommittee on Advanced Instrumentation and Controls and Human Factors. This report was discussed at considerable length at the meeting of the full Committee. The Committee, after its deliberations on the subcommittee report, endorsed it and accepted it as a report of the NSRRC.

The Committee plans to report on the other parts of the January 13-14 meeting at a later date.

The Committee's consideration of the NRC's research in the advanced instrumentation and controls and human factors areas was intended to be a broad review; the Committee did not seek specific conclusions on individual projects. The Committee sees a "fundamental need for an overarching strategy integrating the human with the plant through I&C," states the view that that need has not been met, analyzes the reasons for this, and offers suggestions for steps towards the "synergistic program" that they view as necessary. They note, however, that "[m]eanwhile, good work will continue to be done on individual questions without the synergism of a comprehensive strategic plan."

The Committee also comments that:

- The staff has a "lack of technical and executive capability in this [advanced instrumentation and control] area";
- "It would appear that an excessive amount of time and personnel resources are required to carry out the required formalisms of administrative and financial matters"; and

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- "It appears that the administrative services are not viewing themselves as 'service' organizations, but rather as offices which must themselves be 'serviced.'"

I have requested the Office of Research to give special attention to NSRRC criticisms in the RES response to this letter.

Original signed by

James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:

Ltr., D. Morrison, NSRRC, to
E. Beckjord, NRC dated Jan. 14, 1994

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*see previous page for concurrence

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